



The OSCILLATOR

Volume 33 Issue 8
August 2010



Editor: Everett W6ABM
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Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club



"MY TWO CENTS" Pat Roberson

No Column this month. We wish Pat a quick recovery from his knee surgery.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The Elections Committee for Election of Officers and Trustees for the 2011 Board of Directors is looking for members. Jenny Roberson K7JLR has stepped up to coordinate. She fills the required "Board Member" position on the Committee. At least two others not on the board are required to complete the Committee. Contact Jenny at k7jlf at arrl.net or at 503.848.2283.

The Elections Committee seeks member interest in running for one of the four Officer and two trustee positions open in this election. They recruit as well as ask for interested people to contact them. The Committee is charged to organize the election process following Bylaw requirements.

The Elections Committee serves for the General Election (November and December) and for any special election required prior to Fall, 2011.

RETURN YOUR BALLOTS INTERIM ELECTION

The Election to replace our Vice President and a Trustee continues through Tuesday, August 17th. Return your ballot in the envelope provided before that date.

Election results will be announced at the August 19th Ice Cream Social, Flea Market and BBQ.

Herb Hirst K7HLH is running to fill the unexpired term for Vice President expiring in December. Phil Kane K2ASP is running to fill the Trustee position expiring in December 2011.

VANITY CALL FEE

On July 19, the Federal Communications Commission announced via the Federal Register that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will decrease 10 cents, from \$13.40 to \$13.30. The new fees take effect 30 days after publication, making August 17, 2010, the first day the new fee is in effect.

In FY2010, the FCC expects to grant 14,800 vanity call signs, bringing in \$196,840 from the vanity call sign program.

Renew after August 17 and save one cent per year!

CLUB MEETING THURSDAY, August 19th

3RD THURSDAY OF AUGUST

OTVARC is affiliated with ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio and is a Special Service Club. The **THURSDAY**, August 19th Meeting will at Rood Bridge Park, 4000 SE Rood Bridge Rd, in Hillsboro (Shelter B) at 7:00 pm (Come as early as 3:00 pm to enjoy the park). Check out the map at:
<http://tinyurl.com/roodbridgepk>

Our August meeting is our Annual Ice Cream Social...we'll have BBQ grills available for your meat (if you choose). Bring your goodies for the Tail Gate Flea Market from 6:00—7:00 pm.

Guests are always welcome. A license is not required.

Beginning **THURSDAY**, September 16th our meeting location will be at the Community Building, Sunset Presbyterian Church, 14986 NW Cornell Rd, just off US 26 (Exit 65) in Beaverton.

CLUB NAQP AUGUST 21

OTVARC will participate in the Summer North American QSO Party on August 21st. This contest is sponsored by the NATIONAL CONTEST JOURNAL, and is a premier operating event and contest each year.

This year, we'll add an in-club contest, OTVARC NAQP, to give you another reason to participate. To participate in the Club Contest for NAQP, send your name and call to otvarc@gmail.com. A detail sheet with log requirements will be sent. Use the postal box allowing time for return postal mail. We'll score our club contest this way:

We'll add an operating time multiplier (one for each hour, issued in quarter hour segments) and a 1,000 point bonus for a sweep in each of three categories (US, Canada; and NA Countries).

QRP entries (5 watts or less) will receive two points for each valid contact.

OTVARC Awards will be given to the top entry in Full Power (100 Watts or less) and QRP (5 Watts or less) Sections (minimum 5 entries).

Members submit logs via email to otvarc@gmail.com in Cabrillo or to our Club Address in paper form. The deadline for submission of logs to OTVARC is September 4, 2010.

MYSTERY PACKAGE CAUSES TRAIN SCARE

A suspicious object on a train in Aichi Prefecture, Nagoya Japan, that was later confirmed to be a radio device left behind by a passenger, caused a three-hour disruption on Nagoya Railroad Co.'s Komaki Line, police and railway officials said.

It took about three hours after the object was found and taken off the train to determine it was a ham radio Morse code transmitter. A 47-year-old train employee left it behind after attending an amateur radio event in western Japan, the police said. QRP rules!

VOLUNTEER EXAM REPORTS

The results for our April – August 2010 Sessions:

April 3rd

Nine applicants earned four Technician, four General and one Extra Class license.

May 1st

Twelve applicants earned six Technician, four General, and one Extra. One applicant earned "opportunity for further study."

June 5th (Sea-Pac)

Sixteen applicants earned three Technician Class, six General Class, and three Extra Class licenses. Four applicants will try again.

July 3rd

Four applicants earned one Technician Class, one General Class licenses, and two will try again. This was the first session using the new Technician question pool, which some people are saying is a bit more difficult than the previous one.

August 7th

We tested eleven applicants in the August session, attempting three upgrades and eight new licenses. Seven applicants earned their Technician Class license, one who will try again. We had one upgrade to General and one to Extra, with one applicant who will try his Extra again later.

The June 5 session at Sea-Pac was notable for the outstanding performance of young applicants. The first applicant to finish, in 6 minutes flat, was an boy of about 7 who earned his Technician Class license. We had a brother/sister pair 9 and 11 years old who earned their Technician licenses. These three did not just barely pass either, but earned very good test scores.

Thanks go to the VEs serving at these sessions: W6ABM, N7BAR, AC1CA, N7CM, KK7E, K7EAJ, KE7EVV, KD7GIE, WD7H, K7HLH, W7JDE, N7THL, KE7WNB.

Next session Saturday, September 4, 1:00 p.m. at the Ronler fire station.

73,
Carl WS7L

MEMBERS WORKING AT SEA-PAC

The biggest event of our year is the sponsorship of *SEA-PAC* in June. We not only produce this event for the benefit of The Northwestern Division of the ARRL, it serves as our primary fund-raiser — supporting our scholarship, repeaters, and other community service.

This year, we honor these members who helped make it happen:

Rick Banton	KD7THV	Jenny Roberson	K7JLR
Al Berg	W7SIC	Pat Roberson	N7PAT
Mary Berg	N7TRW	Jim Schaeffer	KB7ADH
Luther Brisky	KC7KVL	Wayne Schuler	AI9Q
John Bucsek	KE7WNB	Will Sheffield	N7THL
Carl Clawson	WS7L	Jack Smithson	KA7HOJ
Steve Coan	KA7MOW	Linda Sutton	KC7YTD
Everett Curry	W6ABM	Mel Sutton	KB7PVW
Darwin Durr	K7PSD	Phil Westover	WA7URV
Kathy George	KC7USE		
Bob Heath	KD7OHF	Did we miss you on	
Rox Heath	AD7RX	our list? Drop a note	
Claire Johnson	N7CM	to otcarc@gmail.com	
Ernie Johnson	K7EAJ	and let us know.	
Rich Morgan	KD7GIE		
Bob Recny	N8SQT		

OTVARC ON FACEBOOK

If you haven't found the OTVARC site on FACEBOOK, put Oregon Tualatin Valley in the search box and you should find our group site.

We provide basic information on the club to anyone who asks to join our club site, membership is not required. We approve all legitimate requests to become a part of our group.

What will you find on the Group site? We have schedules, brief introductions to upcoming programs, pictures of Field Day and other events.

Give it a try. See you on FACEBOOK.

OTVARC REPEATERS SERVE COMMUNITY

One of the strengths of Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is its long term commitment to serve the community by providing useful repeaters. Wes Allen, our repeater coordinator, calls our machines some of the premier repeaters in Oregon. Open repeaters, available to any licensed amateur radio operator, require careful planning and maintenance and a firm commitment of the supporting organization.

Currently, the 223.94 MHz machine is being upgraded to an operating standard we maintain with the 146.96 MHz and 440.25 MHz machines. The club has authorized the purchase of additional equipment, a 223 MHz duplexer, to upgrade this machine. When the project is complete, all three machines on Goat Mountain will be at a level of coverage and reliability we wish to maintain with our machines.

Our 223.94 MHz machine is expected to have a coverage similar to the 146.96 MHz machine when the upgrades are complete. Slight variations in patterns will be experienced due to the location of the respective antennae on the tower. The 223.94 machine antenna is on the west side of the tower with coverage favoring the west, south, and north. The 146.96 MHz machine antenna is on the north side of the tower with coverage favoring north, east, and west. Two members of our club have held a QSO between Biggs Junction and Florence, a more than 250 mile spread.

How can you help with our repeaters? First, by maintaining your membership in our club. Your membership dues are used, in part, to care for our repeaters. Second, by encouraging other repeater users to join our club — or at least to contribute each year to the Repeater Fund. Third, use the repeaters and invite your contacts to meet you on one of our machines.

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W7SUB

USS BLUEBACK (SS 581)



SS-581 ACTIVE 1959-1990
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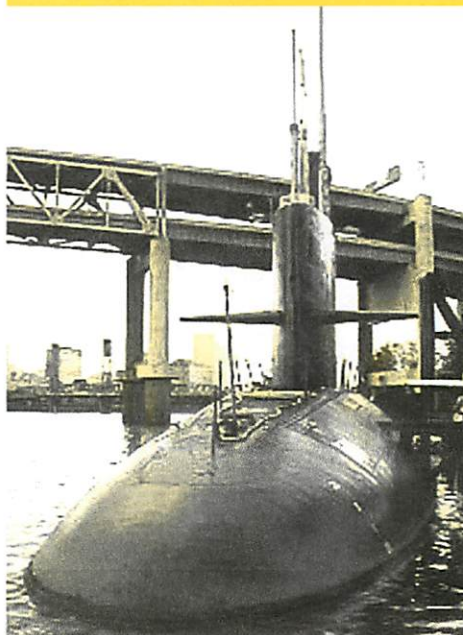
To	Date	GMT	Mhz	RST	Mode

GOOGLE MAP TO ROOD BRIDGE PARK

From 185th and TV Hwy =
<http://tinyurl.com/roodbridgepk>

August 19th Meeting Location

USS BLUEBACK - W7SUB



USS Blueback (SS-581) was a Barbel-class submarine in the United States Navy. She was the second Navy submarine named for a form of the rainbow or steelhead trout found only in Lake Crescent on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington

state. The fish lives in deep water and is bluish black along its upper sides and whitish underneath.

Blueback was launched on 16 May 1959 sponsored by Mrs. Kenmore McManes, wife of Rear Admiral McManes, and commissioned on 15 October 1959, Lieutenant Commander Robert H. Gautier in command. She was the last non-nuclear submarine to join the United States Navy. Blueback was decommissioned on 1 October 1990 and laid up in the Pacific Reserve Fleet in Bremerton, Washington. She was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 30 October 1990.

In 1994 OMSI towed Blueback to Portland where she rests as an interactive part of the museum and a memorial. Her propeller was removed and installed outside the museum as a National Submarine Memorial. OMSI offers guided tours of the submarine several times a day. The vessel was added to the National Register of Historic Places in September 2008.

The radio room has been restored by the USS Blueback Radio Club with both historic military radios and operational modern amateur radio gear which use the original military HF and VHF antennas. The submarine's radio callsign is now W7SUB.

HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS**18 September 2010****MicroHAMS Digital Conference**

MicroHAMS Radio Club

Microsoft Corporate Campus

15120 NE 40th Street

Redmond, WA 98052

www.microhams.com/registration/

Talk-In: 146.58

Phil Moscinski, N2EU

5610 322nd Avenue SE Fall City, WA 98024

Phone: 206-255-6779

pmoscinski@gmail.com**23 October 2010****Swap-Tober-Fest**

Polk County Fairgrounds

520 South Pacific Highway West

Rickreall, OR 97371

Mid-Valley ARES

<http://swaptoberfest.net>

Talk-In: 146.86 (PL 186.2)

Donald Brusch K7UN

PO Box 5130

Salem, OR 97304

503.371.8070

k7un@arrl.net**4 - 6 JUNE 2011****SEA-PAC****NW Division ARRL Convention**

Seaside Convention Center, Seaside Oregon

www.seapac.org

August 19
Annual Ice Cream Social & Flea Market
And Tail Gate Flea Mart
At Rood Bridge Park

August 21
North America QSO Party
AND CLUB CONTEST

September 17 - 19
Travelers' Camp Out
Waterloo County Park/near Lebanon

Your business advertising in THE OSCILLATOR is seen each month by more than 200 members who read THE OSCILLATOR. To include your "Business Card" ad (\$48.00 annually) or "Display" - HRO size ad (\$60.00 annually), contact Maureen O'Rourke at 503.591.9641.



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e-mail: sales@dcpwr.comWeb: www.dcpwr.com**AUGUST LUNCH BUNCH**

Saturday August 28th
1:30 pm

Chang's Mongolian Grill
10900 SW 68th Parkway
At Highway 99
Tigard
503.246.2191

Questions?
Linda KC7YTD
kc7ytd@gmail.com
503.246.8879

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY

5	John Bucsek	KE7WNB
8	John M. Hays	KD7OHK
16	Jim Blanchard	W7HOW
17	Taylor Smith	K7TAY
19	Donald Baldwin	AA2V
19	Russell Graham	KD7BSA
21	Dana Gehm	KB6VIV
21	Ken Haynes	K7KRH
26	Charles Bryce	KD5UOH
29	Barbara Curry	

DID WE MISS YOUR BIRTHDAY?
 Our database needs to be updated.

THE DX DISEASE

It all started on an innocent whim when I decided to work the CQ World Wide DX contest for the first time in 1997. With 100 watts and a multi-band dipole not very high up, I was not expecting big results. At the end of the 48 hours I was excited to find that I had worked 31 countries, with contacts in North and South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Pacific.

The DX Disease had struck. Over the next five or six years, I added more power, better antennas, and better propagation. Before long I had over 250 countries in my log. Where I fell behind was in QSLing. The magnitude of the task seemed overwhelming. I just settled for whatever cards came in unsolicited via the QSL bureau.

Fast forward to 2009. I had about 70 countries confirmed. I'd been hearing about electronic QSLing for quite some time and decided it was time to get an account on ARRL's Logbook of the World (LOTW). So I opened an account and uploaded all my old logs. All of a sudden I had 140 countries confirmed on line. I was eligible for a DXCC award without the sacrifice of so much as one card or stamp! Adding in my card collection, I had 193 countries when I got the award.

But that left about 70 unconfirmed in my log, most of which were 8 to 12 years old. This was starting to bug me. The DX Disease had entered stage two. It got worse when Mike K7CIE, earned his 200 country DXCC endorsement. Along with Ron KD7VIK, we discussed whether to have a competition of some kind. Mike has more power and better antennas, not to mention being retired. At that time, he had more confirmed, but I had more in the log. So it seems a fair game, with two of us racing to 250 confirmations and a bottle of champagne riding on it.

Now I had to get serious. How many of those old QSOs would still be confirmable after all this time? I'm beginning to find out, and to learn some of the challenges of tracking down confirmations.

See DX Disease, next Column



OTVARC MEMBERS are welcome to include an ad in each issue of THE OSCILLATOR as space allows.

For sale: 21' metal pole w/threaded end. The pole is hollow but very heavy, not sure what kind of metal it is - steel? Formerly had an antenna on top. A mere \$25 is the price.

Call KA7LAP at 503.591.9641.

TECHNICIAN CLASSES IN OCTOBER

Saturdays, October 2, 9, & 16
1:00 - 4:00 pm

TVF&R station 67
Community Room (enter from rear)
13810 SW Farmington Road
Beaverton.

FREE

Janet Bell WB7FJC@arrl.net
503.648.4147

DX DISEASE, FROM LEFT COLUMN

The hunt has been interesting. My favorite story is a contact with Sergey 4Z5JZ (Israel) in March of 2000. By the time I went looking for him I couldn't find a good address, and several web sites said he had left Israel. I was about to assign this one the scrap heap when I stumbled on another site that said Sergey is now KN7K. Oh - you mean he's that Sergey, the one who lives a mile from me! I went over for a visit and picked up the card in person. It doesn't get much better.

I may have just pulled ahead of Mike now with 226 confirmed. The response from stateside QSL managers has been very good, about 80% returned within 3 months. I'm just starting to get returns from overseas mailings, which I started on in June. In another two months or so I should have a good idea where I stand, and I'll know how much ground I have to make up in the DX contests this season. See you on the air.

Carl WS7L

OUR NEW MEETING HOME

Beginning on Thursday, September 16th, our usual meeting place will be at *The Sunset Presbyterian Church*. Located at exit 65 of US 26, the church is at 14986 NW Cornell Road. This links to a map: <http://tinyurl.com/otvarc-site>

Here are directions from three locations:

From Oregon 217 & US 26 (4 miles)

Take US-26 West toward the Coast
Take exit 65 for Cornell Rd/Bethany Blvd
Turn right at NW Cornell Rd
Destination will be on the right:
14986 NW Cornell Rd

From NW 23rd St, NW Portland (7 miles)

Take NW Lovejoy Street to NW Cornell Rd
Take NW Cornell Rd to destination on your left:
14986 NW Cornell Rd

From Tualatin Valley Highway & 185th (4 miles)

Take Tualatin Valley Highway east
Turn left at SW 170th Ave
Turn right at SW Merlo Rd
Continue onto SW 158th Ave
Turn right at NW Cornell Rd
Destination will be on the right:
14986 NW Cornell Rd

There will not be food service at our club meeting. However, there are dozens of food sites within a mile of our club meeting. A list will be published again in the September issue of THE OSCILLATOR.

The Board of Directors believes this new site will meet our needs for some time to come. Your patience during this transition assures a successful move of nights and location. Speak to any member of the board with your suggestions to make the new location "home" for the club.

OTVARC

880 NE 25th Ave, STE 2-160

Hillsboro OR 97124

otvarc@gmail.com

www.otvarc.org

MY LATEST PET PEEVE...

...is the operator who treats a normal rag-chewing QSO like a DX contact.

Let me give you an example. The other day I called CQ, and a fellow came back to me with only his call sign. Not only that, he only sent it once. Now, if you have any experience at all with CW, you know that it's always wise to send your call sign at least twice. The reason for this is that there are a number of things, including QRN, QSB, and distractions in the shack, that could cause the receiving station to miss the call sign.

Now, normally, I would make the other guy send his call again, by sending QRZ? This, time, though, I copied the signal cleanly, so I launched into the QSO, sending him a report, my name, and location. When I turned it back to the guy, he sent, "599 FL 73?" and off he went.

Now, I ask you, what sense did it make for that guy to even answer my CQ? This has happened to me two or three times in the last month and each time I had the same reaction.

Please, unless you're a DX station trying to make use of good band conditions, don't answer my CQ if all you want to do is swap signal reports with me. Unless I'm calling CQ DX, which I almost never do, I'm looking for conversation, not just an info swap.

Dan KB6NU

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